

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, July 19, 1896, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Parker House, Boston. July 19th, 1896. My darling Mabel:

I am afraid I shall have to give up attending the meetings of the A.A.P.T.S.D. — unless they are held in cooler places than Philadelphia. This time I fear I have suffered permanently . Been sick all the time — then came Colonial Beach to finish me up. One curious result — I felt myself becoming deaf ! First I could not hear Elsie well in the train — then at Colonial Beach there was no doubt about it, especially after bathing in the river. This morning I find my hearing so seriously impaired that I must seek advice before returning to Baddeck. I cannot hear a thing in my left ear—so far as I can find out I am totally deaf for the time being in that ear . The right ear also is so seriously affected that I cannot hear a watch tick at a greater distance than about 2 inches. This means that I cannot carry on the radiophonic X-ray experiments I have planned unless I can obtain relief.

I am in hopes that the defect is caused by a mechanical plugging of the outer ear — by wax — in which case it can be removed.

I am seriously disturbed about myself — my ears are more to me than to other people. I wish I could be with you at home — wish I hadn't left Beinn Bhreagh at all.

I shall be in the hands of the dentist and aurist tomorrow. Will come home as soon as possible. Expect to leave Tuesday by rail. No accommodation on board the steamer Halifax.

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Your loving, Alec.